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TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING

Amembassy LONDON

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Charge:

Control:

Date:

though he cannot anticipate what it will be.

4. In response to specific questions by Foreign Secretary Sullivan said: we hopeful NVN will accept need for restraint before we can end bombing; that NVN has as yet neither accepted nor rejected "our side-their side" formula; and cited evidence war is putting strains on Hanoi. Foreign Secretary was unfamiliar with and showed interest in ~~EKX~~ Gromyko's statement to Secretary last fall that cessation of bombing would bring ~~XXXXXX~~ about a "new situation."

BRUCE

NODIS REVIEW
Cat. A - Caption removed, transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by: JAO
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All this will have an unhappy effect on the French economy, but one cannot really judge the situation until General de Gaulle, who has cut short his Bucharest stay by 24 hours, pronounces on it. No mail is being delivered in Paris, the airports are closed to traffic, the [redacted] telephone service has almost ceased to function, and altogether things are messy. Sullivan and Davidson came over on a special US military aircraft, which as things now appear, will not be able to return to France while the airport strikes continue.

We are giving a dinner tonight at which the chief guests were to be Charles de Noailles and the Waldners, making their annual pilgrimage to the Chelsea Flower Show. By some circuitous method, E was informed they will have to cancel their trip. Without them, we but Lulu wangled her way over on a private plane. had as guests:

Bill Channing and Wardwell Howell came to see me this morning, and talked interestingly about their management advisory business, which Channing will have charge of in Britain.

At lunch today I sat between Susan Crosland and Nancy Caccia. Anthony Crosland dropped out at the last moment, since the Labour Ministers are intensely preoccupied with getting the necessary votes to pass their price-incomes bill tomorrow night, as well as with intermediate legislation. Crosland is, I think rightly, considered one of the ablest members of the Cabinet, and his wife is a happy companion.

Tonight I sat between Betty Salisbury and Lady Linlithgow--the latter, an American by birth, seems entirely contented with her new Scottish life, which she well might be, in view of their occupancy of his great place, Hopetoun. She is attractive and a gay conversationali Two of the most unchanged people in point of friendship over a long period of years are the Salisburys. Bobbety remains learned, cosy, witty, unassuming, except when he expresses his [redacted] vigorous opinions on political subjects.

After Gore-Booth's return from his Sherlockian adventure in Switzerland, where he precipitated wicked Moriarty into an abyss, Victor Santa Cruz circulated this jeu d'esprit to some of his diplomatic friends and to selected members of the Foreign Office:

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DINNER - Embassy residence - May 20, 1968

Ambassador and Mrs. Bruce
Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury
Marquess and Marchioness of Linlithgow
Lord and Lady Butler
Viscountess Astor
Viscount Hood
Ava Viscountess Waverly
Lord Camrose
Lady Hesketh
Princess Joan Aly Khan
Mr. Lanning Roper
Baroness de Waldner
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Allen
Mrs. Gilbert Miller
Mrs. Lancaster
Lord Harcourt
Mr. Peter Lubbock
Mr. Coats

Count Oberndorff

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No. 70/05/X234

LONDON, 7th May 1968.

MON. TRÈS LE MINISTRE:

I have to inform Your Lordship that serious doubts have arisen as to the mental health of the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, Sir Paul Gore-Booth. It is widely thought that he is affected by a virus form of "Folie" a rare but contagious disease. I have this information from reliable sources, among which I need only mention the personnel of the Swiss Embassy. As Your Lordship is aware, the Swiss are objective and serious-minded people, whose appreciation of facts as they are is never distorted by vagaries such as Latin imagination or English humour.

My own Swiss Doctor believes that the previous Secretary of State, Mr. George Brown, had also a virus form of "Folie de Grandeur" which led him to believe that he was really LORD PALMERSTON. In his favour it must be said that although Mr. Brown had some Palmerstonian head-on collisions with various Royalties, his "Folie" never reached the extreme of his believing that he was JOHN Brown..

It is possible that this disease which sadly affected the former Foreign Secretary could now have infected Sir Paul Gore-Booth, with all the deplorable consequences we are now observing. Sir Paul is by nature a well-balanced and modest man, and it is not surprising that his particular "Folie" has not taken on grand Palmerstonian tones. At no time has he believed himself to be Talleyrand, but this may well be due to a tacit concensus of opinion in the Diplomatic Service to leave that role of Prince of Benevento to former Ambassador Sir Gladwyn Jebb, now the Liberal Life Peer, Baron Gladwyn.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Ministry,
SANTIAGO. Chile.

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It appears that Sir Paul's "folie" is a mixture of suspicion and confusion, which makes him believe that the celebrated Professor Moriarty has returned to life and is haunting the Foreign Office premises and archives, under the most varied corporal forms: at one time he is Philby; at another, Sir Pierson Dixon, disguised as Attaturk, and on one occasion, at a time of great tension with France, Sir Paul even saw two Geoffroy Courcels calmly walking through his own corridor of power. Obviously one of them was wretched Moriarty, up to his tricks again.

"Enough is enough" were the Cecilian Kingly words of Sir Paul, and then and there the doom of this revenant Moriarty was sealed.

And, Your Lordship, he has done it. At the same Falls of Reichenstadt the second assassination of Moriarty, this time at the hands of Sir Paul, duly took place. How did he manage to deceive the Swiss and perform his murder scene undetected and unmolested? It is commonly believed that he entered the territory of Helvetia in disguise, but erroneously supposed by all that his counterfeit dress was that of Sherlock Holmes. But I have it from excellent sources that this false rumour has been spread by Sir Paul himself, for the garments that tricked the Swiss were really borrowed from Lord Snowdon's latest New York vestures.

I do my best, Your Lordship, to avoid Sir Paul, afraid as I am of catching his disease, which might lead even my modest personality to some form of delusion or imaginary grandeur.

Your Lordship, I must also report that yesterday I was summoned to a secret meeting with Mr. Harold Wilson, Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, all of whom duly informed me that a Coalition had been agreed upon and that it was their mutual desire that I should take over as Prime Minister of the new National Government.

As Your Lordship will understand, I could not refuse my services to this noble Nation, in time of duress and some financial strain. But have no doubt: I shall succeed and the glory and happiness of Britain shall be restored.

Please inform the President.

God keep Your Lordship.

(Signed) VICTOR SANTA CRUZ.

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May 22, 1968 - Tuesday

Jerry Wadsworth came to see me this morning. He still takes an interest in public matters, but doubts he will return to political or official life.

Harry Shullaw, who was serving here in the Embassy when I first came, called to see me. After a long, and to us useful, period of successful management of British affairs at the Department, he is now on his way to Helsinki, where he will be Deputy Chief of Mission.

I sent this telegram to Averell Harriman in Paris:

E and I left this afternoon for Edinburgh, to stay at Holyroodhouse Palace as guests of Lord Reith, who is in his second year as Lord High Commissioner. This position is filled by distinguished men on the Queen's appointment. During his tenure he exercises locally the authority of the Queen. Men bow and ladies curtsy to himself and his wife, and they are invariably addressed as "His Grace" and "Her Grace". They ■■ reside■■ in Holyroodhouse; ■■ their duties last only about ten days and are connected with the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Like all British ceremonials, arrangements for these occasions are made and carried out meticulously, operating upon lengthy instructions from the Purse Bearer's Department. The Purse Bearer, Major Alastair C. Blair, was in his first term of office when we went to a similar celebration seven years ago. He still remembers how he saved me from disgrace at that time by supplying me with a wing collar. This accomplished and pleasing individual has a genius for introducing people to each other. Preceding the banquet tonight, he led the Reiths around a circle of about 100 people, presenting them without a single hesitation.

We were met at the airport by an ADC and a lady in waiting, transported to the Palace, and taken immediately to drinks with the Reiths. There were about a dozen other people staying there, including Helen and Michael Adeane and Diana and Yehudi Menuhin. It is ■■■■■ almost impossible to find one's way back and forth to the bedrooms in this rambling castle, so an ADC appears at each appointed time to conduct guests back and forth.

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TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING AMEMBASSY LONDON

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Charge: STATE

Control:

Date: May 21, 1968

ACTION: AmEmbassy PARIS IMMEDIATE

[redacted]
LONDON

For Harriman, EYES ONLY, from Bruce.

1. Sorry send long telegram but postal service too uncertain. Sullivan and Davidson acquitted themselves excellently yesterday and Sullivan's exposition obviously impressive.

2. Your readiness come here greatly appreciated. Question of its timing important. Since Stewart, after returning here Friday, will undoubtedly be closely questioned in House probably on Tuesday May 28, as will Prime Minister at his question period on Thursday, May 30, it has always been considered in past politically unwise for such government officials to see high ranking foreigners before they have faced membership of House of Commons. I have not taken this up with British officialdom, but assuming you can be fairly thoroughly briefed on results Stewart mission without coming here. I would suggest you make a later date for your arrival, within limitations your own convenience and other engagements. If you wished to come soonest possible, Memorial Day an American but not a British public holiday, would give you chance, but probably not before

Drafted by: AMB:DBruce/eo - May 21, 1968 Approving Officer:

Concurrence:

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